

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

132:40
MS

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION
#BXNEMV *****CAR-RT LOT-0019
#0000 2911 0095#
005 DTN
SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOC 31049 PI
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620

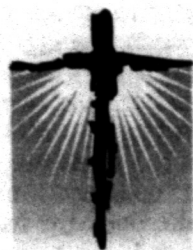
CE 1877

9, 2008

OL. 132

No. 38

OCT 14 2008



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Miss. Baptists still on hurricane response

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Mississippi Baptist disaster relief volunteers continue to staff a large feeding unit in Sulphur, La., west of Lake Charles near the Texas border, in order to provide much-needed hot meals for Hurricane Ike victims, first responders, and relief workers.

Jim Didlake, Men's Ministry director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) and disaster relief coordinator for Mississippi Baptists, said a second team has been sent to Maplewood Church in Sulphur to staff a Louisiana Baptist Convention mass feeding unit on the scene there.

"Since the Louisiana Baptist unit was already there and capable of preparing as many meals as we could possibly prepare, the decision was made to staff that unit with Mississippi Baptist volunteers rather than rolling our feeding unit all the way over there," Didlake said.

The first Mississippi Baptist team consisted of 15 volunteers and was headed up by Vernon Boteler, a member of Briar Hill Church, Florence.

The second team, presently on the scene in Sulphur, has ten volunteers and is being led by Gene Williamson, a member of Cumberland Church, Maben.

There are also a number of Mississippi Baptist "mud-out" crews in the areas hardest hit by Ike, Didlake said. A partial list includes crews from Calhoun, Yalobusha, Gulf Coast, Lauderdale, Jackson, and North Central Associations.

Three shower units from Briar Hill Church, Florence, Lafayette Association, and Jackson Association are also in the hurricane area, he added.

Don Gann, consultant in the MBCB Men's Ministry Department, recently returned from a stint as incident commander for all Southern Baptist operations in the Galveston, Texas, area.

"The people of Galveston are working hard to come back from the storm, and Southern Baptists are supporting them in a



GETTING STARTED — Dixie Kennedy (right) and David Warren mix the ingredients for home-made chili in a commercial tilt skillet at Maplewood Church in Sulphur, La. The pair was part of the first Mississippi Baptist team to enter the area damaged by Hurricane Ike to prepare hot meals for victims, first responders, and relief workers. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

number of ways including mud-out units and mega-feeding units."

Gann said mega-feeding units combine the volunteers and equipment from several Southern Baptist disaster relief units to form a massive feeding operation capable of preparing meals in multiples of what a single unit could accomplish.

A large mega-feeding unit based at First Church in Houston, Texas, is providing over 50,000 hot meals per day, Gann said.

To date, Southern Baptists have prepared nearly four million meals in response to Hurricanes Ike and Gustav, according to figures released by the North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga., which coordinates Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts.

"I had 50 years' worth of stuff in my house, and now it's all sitting in the street," said Mary Meade of Galveston, waving a glove-covered hand at the pile of debris behind her.

Meade and her sister evacuated to Trinity, Texas, before Ike's Sept. 13 landfall. "My sister wanted to stay, but I begged her to leave." Their brother Robert stayed behind to ride out the storm. Water from the surge filled his house within an hour.

"He had to start swimming as the waters rose almost to the ceiling of his house," Meade said. "His dog, Sir Guy, was in the garage swimming for his life. Thank goodness Robert was able to save him. Robert and Sir stayed in the attic without food or water for three or four

days after the storm." They were finally rescued by the National Guard.

Having lived her life on the island, Meade said she's wanted to leave for several years. "Maybe now I can convince my brother and sister to move."

Meade went back to her futile search as workers with their claw-like machines began filling trucks with debris just a few doors down.

"Galveston will come back," said Randall Dowdell, a surfer riding along the sea wall on his bike. Dowdell moved to Galveston only eight weeks prior to Ike. He rode out the storm in the cab of his truck and is lucky to be alive. "The winds were really strong, the pressure blew out the windows," he said.

"This was the happiest place of my childhood and that of my children. We vacationed here a lot," Dowdell said, pointing to the sun-bathed beach now dotted with warning signs. "It may take a while, but the island will come back from this."

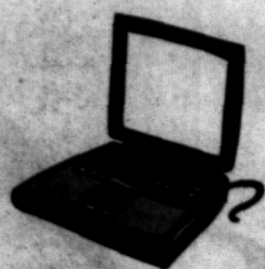
First Church, Galveston, has begun to have services again. Last week they met in a local funeral home. This Sunday they hope to start meeting in the chapel that was built in memory of 44 church members who lost their lives in the storm of 1900.

"I don't guess we'll have our praise band," Pastor Ray Meador said with a quiet laugh, "since we don't have electricity."

Baptist Press contributed to this article.



FILLING IT UP — Bobby Kennedy fills a commercial tilt skillet with one of many gallon-size cans of beans for the large batch of homemade chili being made by Mississippi Baptists at Maplewood Church in Sulphur, La., in response to Hurricane Ike's devastation. Mississippi Baptist disaster relief officials estimate that Mississippi Baptists have prepared over 30,000 meals while serving in southwest Louisiana. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Benjamin Ivey
bivey@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Marcus Bowers, Brandon
Jimmy McFatter, Amory
Billie Buckley, Petal
James Bates, Gulfport
Archie Herrin, Columbia
Chris Webb, Jackson

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 132 • NUMBER 38
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi churches.
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS.
Member, Association of State Baptist Papers.
Deadlines: News items — one calendar
week prior to requested publication date.
Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to
requested publication date. All submissions
are subject to editing.

'Religulous' ridiculous

Comedian turned television talk show host Bill Maher is famous in the entertainment industry for his anti-religion (any religion) campaigns, in which he has managed to insult virtually all the major faiths of the world. Given his particular venom for Christianity, however, it is surprising that he even endeavors to take on more than the Gospel in his new movie, *Religulous*.

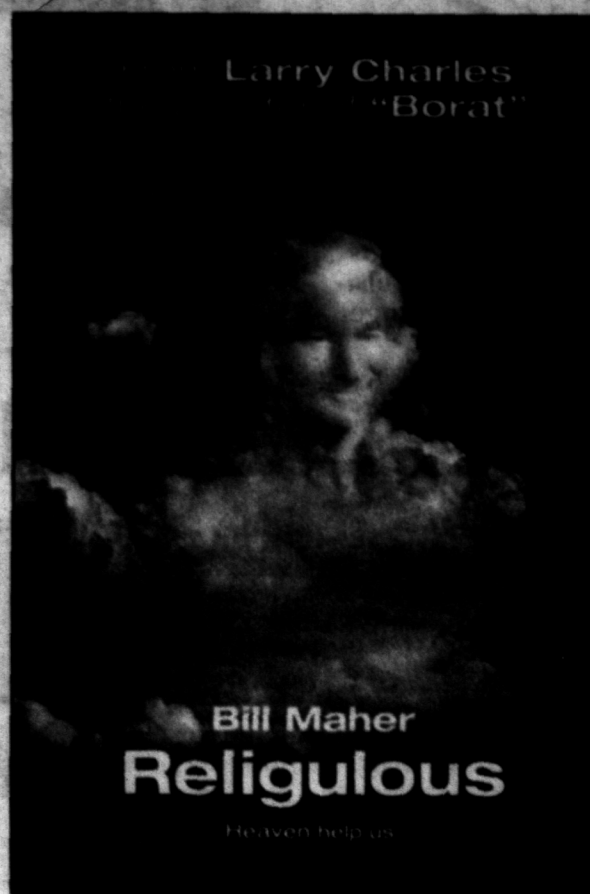
"When you're talking about a man living to 900 years old, and drinking the blood of a 2,000-year-old god, and that Creation Museum where they put a saddle on the dinosaur because people rode dinosaurs, it's just a pile of comedy waiting for someone to exploit... I always said, my primary motivation was I'm a comedian, and this is comedy gold," Maher told Associated Press in an interview to promote the opening of the movie.

Maher, whose visage appears god-like in the clouds of the movie's promotional poster, was raised by a Catholic father and Jewish mother. He traveled the globe with film director and

fellow non-believer Larry Charles, whose latest work was *Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan*.

"The altruistic wing of religion has been minimized and this militaristic, war-mongering fundamentalism has become the predominant presence," Charles told Associated Press.

The pair shot 500 hours of material as Maher visited, among other places, a Christian chapel for truckers in North



Carolina, a bar for Muslim homosexuals in the Netherlands, the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, and a number of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim holy sites in Israel, according to Associated Press.

Christianity Today magazine reports the movie is rated "R," mostly for Maher's gratuitous foul language. Maher also openly smokes marijuana in the movie and makes light of drug use, according to the magazine.

"Comedians have always made jokes about religion. It's a rich topic," Maher said

in the Associated Press article. "I did when I was a young comedian, but they weren't jokes that got right to the essence of it, which is, this is dangerous and this is silly."

Obviously, Maher and Charles believe they have a hit on their hands, and maybe they do among the Hollywood elitists, but how did the opening weekend for *Religulous* compare to *Fireproof*, the unabashedly Christian movie just released by Sherwood Church in Albany, Ga.?

According to the web site boxofficemojo.com, *Religulous*, made at a cost of \$2.5 million, took in \$3,409,643 in opening weekend box office, while the uplifting *Fireproof*, made at a cost of \$500,000, took in some \$6,836,036 — a difference of more than double in box office receipts. *Fireproof* also scored an impressive \$8,148 average per screen, while *Religulous* brought in only \$6,792 average per screen.

"It's a movie meant to make religious people look stupid, to 'prove' that religious belief and intelligence are mutually exclusive. If you are already prone to believe that, then this movie is for you," Christianity Today's review of the film states. "For everyone else, *Religulous* is a trifling and shoddy tirade that, ultimately, is not much of a threat."

When will Hollywood learn that there is a minimal audience for expensive works that insult the intelligence and faith of most of the people living in the area to which they sneeringly refer as "flyover country," and that such efforts seldom make back the money it took to produce the movie?

Likewise, when will they learn that there is a huge (read: profitable) market for professionally-produced, uplifting movies like *Fireproof* and *Facing the Giants*?

It's up to us to keep teaching that lesson until they learn it.

GUEST OPINION:



Homosexuals: made by God?

By Bob Stith
Southlake, Texas

If this is the way God made me, then this is the way I'm going to live," Christian singer Ray Boltz said in a recent article disclosing his decision to divorce his wife and live as a homosexual.

Did God really create him as a homosexual? The media certainly would have us think so.

Time recently ran an article (What the Gay Brain Looks Like, Jun. 17, 2008) attempting to demonstrate the "science" supporting a "gay gene." Interestingly, the article referenced a study done by Simon LeVay in 1991. The study had major gaps in its methodology and even LeVay, a homosexual neuroscientist, has said that it didn't prove what he hoped it would.

An article such as this demonstrates the difficulty of speaking truth into our culture today. Studies attempting to normalize homosexual behavior are introduced with much fanfare, and we hear about "important" new discoveries that are accepted as facts.

We don't hear, however, about the scientists who strongly disagree and the studies that reach a different conclusion. For example, in 2003, the International Human Genome Consortium

announced the successful completion of the Human Genome Project, which, among other

things, identified each of the approximately 20,000-25,000 genes in human DNA.

While this accomplishment was widely reported, almost no one reported the words of Francis Collins, the head of the project. Collins, arguably the nation's most influential geneticist, said, "Homosexuality is not hardwired. There is no gay gene. We mapped the human genome. We now know there is no genetic cause for homosexuality."

Somehow the major media missed that little tidbit. Collins and others acknowledge that genetics can predispose but not predetermine. This supports other studies that clearly document the possibility of change for people who struggle with unwanted homosexual desire.

The need for Christians to be prepared to deal with this issue is shown in another comment by Boltz: "I guess I felt that the

church, that they had it wrong about how I felt with being gay all these years, so maybe they had it wrong about a lot of other things."

Notice the emphasis on "...how I felt..." Far too often we allow "feelings" and the validity of each person's "story" to trump the authority of Scripture.

In Boltz's case, his struggle with homosexuality apparently caused him to doubt other tenets of the faith. Beliefs to which he had held all his life were reconsidered. This is not uncommon among strugglers from Christian backgrounds. When we fail to help them deal with this issue, other fundamental beliefs are questioned.

I grieve for the loss of the testimony of Ray Boltz. I grieve for those who will follow his example. I grieve for his family. I pray that one day Ray will

realize that God did not create him a homosexual and that there is a way out.

We are in desperate need of children of Issachar, who understand the times and know what to do (1 Chronicles 12:32). Far too many in Southern Baptist churches are struggling with a temptation they neither seek nor understand, but they are terrified to ask for help.

Ray Boltz said, "I read every book, I read all the Scriptures they use, I did everything to try and change." Scripture tells us that people can leave homosexuality (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

I pray for the day when all of our churches take seriously the need to train their leadership to redemptively provide the tools needed for the people like Ray Boltz in their midst. I long for the day when every community has Christians who are prepared to present a positive, joy-filled alternative to the lifelong struggle he has endured.

Are your church and your community prepared? Are you?

Stith is the Southern Baptist Convention's National Strategist for Gender Issues. He is available for speaking engagements and interviews and can be reached at bstith@sbctheawayout.com. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

SBC World Hunger Fund to be highlighted

Editor's note: On October 12, Southern Baptists will observe World Hunger Sunday and congregations across the United States will collect offerings for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. For more information, visit world-hungerfund.com.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptists have long engaged in cooperative ministry efforts to meet worldwide needs, and today the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund continues to reflect the legacy of cooperation that has come to characterize the Southern Baptist Convention.

Since 1981, three Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) entities — the International Mission Board (IMB), the North American Mission Board (NAMB), and the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) — have partnered to raise awareness of world hunger so that food can be served and a Gospel witness given to millions of hungry people around the globe.

Other SBC entities such as LifeWay Christian Resources, the SBC Executive Committee, and the Woman's Missionary Union readily assist them in these efforts.

"We have a renewed synergy between multiple entities related to the work of the World Hunger Fund," said Bobby Reed, ERLC vice president for business and finance.

When Southern Baptists give to the World Hunger Fund, 80% of funds are disbursed to IMB for hunger relief overseas while 20% go to NAMB for domestic hunger relief. In 2007, Southern Baptist hunger ministries fed more than 3.5 million meals in North America — resulting in 35,000 professions of faith. Internationally, \$7.8 million funded nearly 300 hunger relief projects in 2007.

One hundred percent of all funds given to the World Hunger Fund go to hunger relief, with none used for overhead or administrative costs. When possible, hunger ministries are designed to build independence from food aid.

Supporting food distribution, the ERLC emphasizes hunger as a moral and social issue that followers of Christ must address.

"Many millions of adults and children around the world are suffering from chronic and acute malnutrition," ERLC President Richard Land said. "Thankfully, Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers are on the field, feeding the hungry both physically and spiritually. Yet without the generous gifts of Southern Baptists, they lack the food and means to aid these who are literally on life's sharp edge, leaving many worthy evangelistic opportunities unfunded."

"I hope Southern Baptists will give joyfully and sacrificially to the World Hunger Fund and help feed the hungry in Jesus' name."

LifeWay joined the hunger relief effort by placing collection boxes for the World Hunger Fund at the checkout area in all of its LifeWay Christian Stores nationwide and promoting the fund in customer catalogues. LifeWay also has featured the World Hunger Fund in magazines.

Since 1997, LifeWay customers have donated nearly \$500,000 to the fund.

The Executive Committee receives the funds and distributes them to the IMB and NAMB, while WMU aids in promotion of the fund.

More than 67,000 volunteers assisted at hunger ministry sites throughout the United States in 2007. Some 7,200 new hunger ministry volunteers were trained in evangelism and the Gospel was shared with more than 580,000 visitors to SBC hunger ministries.

Steve Faith, administrative community evangelism director for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, told how food distribution to one family changed their eternal destiny.

Faith, head of the Southeast Indiana Baptist Food Warehouse in New Albany, partners with churches that receive World Hunger funds to distribute meals to Indiana's poor. When one couple came to a church to pick up food, they both responded to the Gospel and later led a dozen relatives to Christ, Faith said.

"Brother, there are people out there, and they really need help," he said. "We have more needs than product. It's currently worse than I've ever seen it. In this economy, many families are having to make tough decisions — 'Do we buy food or do we buy gas so we can get to and from work?'"

Angela Bostick, a NAMB missionary in Brownwood, Texas, leads the Heart of Texas Good Samaritan Ministry in rural Brown County, three hours south of Dallas. Her ministry distributes food to 650 families each month and expands to 800 families during November and December.

"The majority of the people who come in are elderly or disabled on fixed incomes," Bostick said. "Brown County has a higher percentage of elderly than the Texas average. We also have a lot of the working poor, because there are not a lot of good paying jobs around Brownwood. Most make minimum wage."

Two-thirds of gifts allocated internationally from the World Hunger Fund are used for developmental projects that teach people how to produce food and manage their resources. The remaining third entails more traditional feeding programs related to disasters such as cyclones, earthquakes, and floods.

Because of the nature of developmental projects, the precise number of meals served is impossible to calculate. However,



hunger funds have helped share the Gospel with untold thousands globally.

"Hunger funds can be used for projects that help people grow more food, get more food (access in times of crisis), use the food they have more efficiently (storage systems), and increase their power to purchase food (education programs that help to increase their capacity to earn a more gainful employment)," said an IMB spokesman.

"Hunger funds can only be used in cases where there is a documented hunger problem. However, outside of the United States, those areas are not hard to find."

One hunger relief project in southern Asia distributed rice, lentils, oil, salt and water purification tablets to 1,850 needy families in the wake of a cyclone that devastated fields ready for harvest. Another project in Africa educated impoverished people about nutrition, hygiene and sanitation needs to help them achieve community health.

Like the Africa project, many international hunger relief efforts focus on nutrition-related education, agricultural techniques, sanitation or healthy eating practices. In Cambodia, for example, World Hunger funds are helping to produce low-cost water filters that clean arsenic out of drinking water.

Other programs teach hun-

gry people how to produce crops in marginal lands or store crops that are susceptible to destruction and decay.

"In word and deed, the International Mission Board is passionately committed to sharing the love of God in Jesus Christ," said Scott Holste, associate vice president for research and strategic services at the IMB. "In the first eight months of this year alone, we have approved 226 projects totaling more than \$8.3 million in order to alleviate hunger around the world. We are grateful for Southern Baptists' generous and sacrificial support of the Cooperative Program, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and World Hunger Fund that make these ministries possible."

All SBC entities involved in hunger relief encourage Southern Baptists to give to the fund through their local churches, designating their gift to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. A website (www.world-hungerfund.com) provides additional information and offers World Hunger Fund promotional resources, including a label that can be printed and affixed to an empty soup can for collecting funds.

The website is intentionally not tied to a specific SBC entity since it reflects the overall emphasis on bringing all Southern Baptists together to combat hunger in the name of Christ.

Looking back

10 years ago

Addressing the Y2K problem, or "millennium bug," that may cause widespread computer malfunctions at the turn of the century, Morris H. Chapman urges churches and their members to "study the matter seriously" for possible ministry opportunities in the midst of crisis.

20 years ago

The family of Virginia Wilson Searight and the late Thomas P. Wilson of Senatobia donate a parcel of land to the BSU of Northwest Community College in Senatobia for construction of a new student center, according to Northwest BSU director Rick Alford.

50 years ago

The largest Sunbeam organization in Mississippi, with more than 100 enrolled, meets each Sunday at Van Winkle Church, Jackson. Herman Milner, pastor.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

OCTOBER 9, 2008

VOL. 132

No. 38



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBLIOCIPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
© 2005

DOF RA KPR EOHOUJO
BAX IUFC JPUR IATEG: SAT
WOHPXGO AS FCOGO
FCURMG HAKOFC FCO
ITPFC AS MAE XYAR FCO
HCUDETOR AS EUGA-
WOEUORHO.
OYCOGUPRG SUJO:GUL

Clue: L = X

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews Four One

SPOTLIGHT ON SAMARIA

October 28-29, 2008 are the dates for the 173rd annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. I hope that you can come. It is a great gathering of the saints of God filled with wonderful moments of worship, fellowship, and times for Kingdom business. Over the past several years, the Order of Business Committee has been leading us to focus on the various places in Acts 1:8 where Jesus commissioned His church and sent them out on mission. He said, "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, in all Judea, and in Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the earth." The work of the spreading of the Gospel is to be done in concert both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria. It is not for us to pick and choose. It is for us to join in and participate. To help us get a sense of how we can go about fulfilling the Lord's command, we spent one year's Convention sessions examining Jerusalem and the responsibilities that are right at our fingertips. Then we looked beyond our doorsteps to see the regions around us in all Judea and how we can be a part of reaching them. This year the spotlight is on Samaria.

It does not take very long for someone who is reading or studying the Bible to come to an awareness of who, what, and where the Samaritans are. The location of Samaria is about 42 miles from Jerusalem. That region was filled with people who had intermarried with other folks to the point that their offspring were uniquely different. Most people ostracized them because, to the superior and at times self-righteous Jews, the Samaritans were seen as the inferior and impure. So it was that the name Samaritan became synonymous with people who were unloved, usually unseen, in the minds of most were unimportant, and the majority of time they were deliberately ignored.

I know where Samaria is on a map. I even know some of the aspects that make them different racially, theologically, and culturally but to my knowledge, I have never met a Samaritan. In fact, as far as I know I have never even met anybody that has ever met a Samaritan, if the definition is only those folks

who live in that small mountainous region an hour away from Jerusalem. An understanding of biblical truth would bring a person to know that Samaritans are not just folks from that region and that time during the ministry of Jesus. In fact, they are all around us all of the time. Their external features may be a little bit different. Their intellectual features may lead them to think a little different. Their internal needs may reveal anxieties, uncertainties, and frustrations that are so massive that only God can meet those needs.

At this year's Convention along with many other meaningful sermons and songs will be testimonies of people who in their own unique way may have come all the way from Samaria. Their journeys from where they have been to the feet of Jesus will bless your heart. As you hear these testimonies, you will also be hearing the reality of what may be going on in a lot of people's lives who sit on the pews or fill the chairs every Sunday where you worship, for as with so many Samaritan situations, we just do not see it and if we do, we recoil from it and treat it as though it does not exist.

Four testimonies are going to be shared. One will be from a young man who is finishing college at one of our Baptist schools. He had gotten off track and involved in a lifestyle that included drugs and living without God. Because of some caring people, he had a glorious experience with Jesus that has transformed his life and reshaped his world.

Another testimony will be given by a man who literally has been living for several years with the reality of death being a breath away. Like many people who come to our churches on Sunday who may have received terminal news, he got about as bad a report as you can get. Still he has faithfully continued to serve the Lord and to be prepared for that last breath whenever it may come. So often

when people receive bad news that we interpret as a death sentence the people of God that are undergirding them run from them. In a sense, we leave them alone as though they were Samaritans.

Another testimony will come from a lady whose life seemed to be striped by sin but whose life now has been beautifully repainted by grace.

A fourth testimony will come from a lady whose broken heart could only be mended by Jesus. As a young woman, she had an unwanted pregnancy and her decision was to have an abortion. As the Memorial to the

Missing testifies, since *Roe v. Wade* over 50 million women in America have made that decision. While we do not agree with the decision, it is a decision that they must live with days on end. I have known people who have had abortions and once it became common knowledge, they were often ostracized, unloved, and not helped to find the redemptive love of Jesus.

I hope that many of you can come and be a part of our Convention and hear these testimonies. Let me close by saying that if you turn the spotlight on bright enough and look closely enough, you will probably find out that there are many Samaritans around us and even more important you may even discover in the light of God's grace that one of the Samaritans may be you. If so, Jesus not only has good news for you — He is the Good News for your heart.

The author can be contacted at jfutal@mbcb.org.



Directions

Jim Futal, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

EVANGELISM BIBLE CONFERENCE 2008
JAMES E. MESSER MINISTRIES

First Baptist Church Purvis

Bill Wright, Pastor • 601-794-8551
77 Shelby Speights Dr • Purvis, MS 39475

Sunday 10/12/08 thru Wednesday 10/15/08
8:00/10:30am & 5:30pm Sun • 6:30pm M - W

• Scheduled Speakers •

Sunday 8:00am and 10:30am & 5:30pm

Emir Caner

President, Truett-McConnell Baptist College

Monday 6:30pm

Don Wilton

Pastor, FBC Spartanburg • Spartanburg, NC

Tuesday 6:30pm

Fred Luter

Pastor, Franklin Ave Baptist Church • New Orleans, LA

Wednesday 6:30pm

John Sullivan

Executive Director, Florida Baptist Convention

FREE LUNCH 11:45am - 12:55pm M W
with Evangelist James Messer

Special Music

Phil Willis - Sons of the Father and more

Music Director • Phil Willis

Music Evangelist • Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Children's Worship Service

Sunday thru Wednesday - Under the Direction of
Perry "Airhead" Robbins

James E. Messer Ministries, Inc • P O Box 1325 • Theodore, AL
Phone: (800 or 251) 653-6652 • www.jamesmessenger.com

If You Have Lost Money
In the Stock Market

And want to recover losses
We Can Help!
with a Fixed
Equity Indexed Annuity

13.2%

First Year Guarantee

O'Mire Financial Services

406 Orchard Park Drive
Ridgeland, MS 39157

1.800.844.3254

601.957.3841

Guarantees based on the claims
paying ability of the underlying
insurance company.

MS STATE QUARTET CONVENTION

October 16-18, 2008

www.MSQCA.COM

601-466-4343



NESHORA COLISEUM & TOURISM COUNCIL

3 NIGHTS OF NON-STOP GOSPEL MUSIC

DOVE BROS QT. ON THURS, OCT. 16, 6PM

RANDY MILLER OCT. 16-18 & OVER 30 OTHERS

TICKET DISCOUNTS FOR CHURCH GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE/RV HOOKUPS
AVAILABLE. CALL US TO RESERVE TODAY

Baptists helping feed, dig out town slammed by Ike

BRIDGE CITY, Texas (BP) — In Bridge City, a Texas community near the Louisiana border, residents are just beginning to dig out from Hurricane Ike. Much of Bridge City was underwater when the storm surge pushed water from the Gulf of Mexico through the coastline's marshlands.

"That's our sea wall," resident Ricky Trahan said, pointing to the marsh less than a mile from his home. "The surge was about six feet." Trahan works for one of the nearby oil refineries.

Evacuated residents returned to homes filled with mud, sludge and sewage, and yards covered with dead fish.

Mayor Kirk Roccaforte estimated only 14 homes in the city were unaffected by the surge. Most don't have flood insurance. "My mother has lived here since before the town was called Bridge City," Trahan said. "It's never flooded before."

Trahan is one of the lucky ones. He has flood insurance. He pointed to four of his neighbors' houses. None of them have flood insurance.

The recovery work is hard, but the residents are tougher still. "The town's been able to pull together and do what we need to do," Trahan said.

"My father was a carpenter," said Patty Franklin, pointing to the house where Southern Baptist disaster relief mud-out crews were working. "He built this house, all the cabinetry and built-ins."

Franklin's father isn't around to see his handiwork covered with black sludge. He died in January.

Franklin added, "This has

been a tough year for my mom." Joanne Goodwin was staying at her daughter's house in Houston when Ike made its furious way to shore, filling her home with water.

"We've been down here three times since the storm and haven't made a dent," Franklin said, "and then the mud-out crew showed up. These guys have made a big difference."

Disaster relief volunteers from Texas and South Carolina helped clear out the house and ripped out the soggy molding, sheetrock, and insulation.

"We're taking out their whole life here," said Charlie Satterfield, a leader with the South Carolina Baptist disaster relief recovery team.

"Mrs. Goodwin's been sitting out in the driveway, and we've been bringing things by her so she can decide what to keep and what to throw away," said Ann Gaskins, a disaster relief volunteer with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

Most of it is unsalvageable. "They've lost everything they have, and we're just trying to help them out," Gaskins said. "I love being able to help homeowners get a fresh start and help get them on their way to rebuilding their home."

As workers in yellow hats continued to carry out debris from the house, Franklin carefully picked through her mother's jewelry cabinet, looking for pieces worth saving — items like her father's wedding ring.

Residents of Bridge City have been without power for three weeks now. So the Salvation Army canteen in the parking lot of First Church is a welcome site. "We're serving



ALL THAT'S LEFT — Patty Franklin sifts through memorabilia from her mother's cedar chest left to dry on the front lawn by Southern Baptist mud-out volunteers in Bridge City, Texas. Franklin's mother Joanne Goodwin lost her husband in January. Her father, who died earlier this year, built the home in the 1970s. (BP photo by Laura Sikes)

about 3,000 meals a day," said Carole Crosby, a Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteer from Roanoke, Va.

Crosby and her team have handed out a steady stream of meals all day as people break from the hard work of cleaning out the mud and muck.

B.J. McGee drove from nearby Orange, Texas, to pick up lunch for her family. Her trailer was destroyed by the storm surge. She and her husband are now living with her son in Orange.

"We are so thankful for the hot meals," McGee said. "This

has been a big help to us."

Lori Thomas of Nederland, Texas, picked up meals for friends in town who she's been helping. "We are not victims, we are survivors," she said. "We really are so blessed, and we are thankful for Southern Baptists and the work they're doing."

Coletta Hubbell, a disaster relief volunteer from Gould, Ark., first came to Texas with a feeding unit. When FEMA closed the feeding site, Hubbell stayed behind to help out in any way she could. She's been answering the phone at First Church in

Bridge City, taking requests for mud-out and chain saw units.

"I see this hurricane as an opportunity for God to show His mighty hand," Hubbell said. "And it's an amazing opportunity for Christians to allow God to use them to bless others."

Ike's bitter trail of destruction will linger for months across hundreds of miles in Texas and Louisiana coastline, but residents of Bridge City are hopeful.

"I'm looking forward to next summer," Ricky Trahan said, "when we can say 'Remember the flood we had last year?'"

Pastors protest federal ban on political speech in churches

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — Pastors of at least seven Southern Baptist congregations participated in Pulpit Freedom Sunday, a Sept. 28 free speech initiative to test the 54-year-old Supreme Court ruling that forbids the endorsement of political candidates from the pulpit.

No Mississippi Baptist churches or churches of other denominations in the state were listed as participating by the group that promoted the observance.

"Pastors have a right to speak about biblical truths from the pulpit without fear of punishment," Erik Stanley, senior legal counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF), said in a news release. "No one should be able to use the government to intimidate pastors into giving up their constitutional rights."

The ADF pledged to watch for Internal Revenue Service investigations arising from the event and oppose efforts to remove the tax-exempt status of 33 congregations whose pastors endorsed candidates from the pulpit.

The day after the free-speech demonstrations, Americans United for Separation of Church and State filed complaints against six churches where pastors participated in the event.

"These pastors flagrantly violated the law and now must deal with the consequences," Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said in a news release.

"Church leaders are supposed to tend to Americans' spiritual needs, not behave like partisan political hacks. I urge the IRS to act swiftly in these cases."

The president of the Interfaith Alliance, who also is pastor of a Baptist church in Louisiana, said engaging political issues from the pulpit compromises the credibility of religion.

"On the day after the election, whoever is in the White House will need a unified nation in order to accomplish his goals and to have the nation fulfill its responsible role internationally," C. Welton Gaddy, president of the alliance, told FOXNews.com.

"Religion historically has been able to bring people together in that kind of unity. If religions in the United States are as divided as politics itself, they will not be able to make one of their greatest contributions to the nation."

"ADF is not trying to get politics into the pulpit," Stanley told FOXNews.com. "Churches can decide for themselves that they either do or don't want their pastors to speak about electoral candidates. The point of the Pulpit Initiative is very simple: The IRS should not be the one making the decision by threatening to revoke a church tax-exempt status. We need to get the government out of the pulpit."

A statement posted on the ADF website says in part:

"Historically, churches have emphatically, and with great passion, spoken Scriptural truth from the pulpit about government and culture... Pastors have proclaimed Scriptural truth throughout history on great moral issues such as slavery, women's suffrage, child labor and prostitution. Pastors have also spoken from the

pulpit with great frequency for and against various candidates for government office. All that changed in 1954 with the passage of the 'Johnson amendment,' which restricted the right of churches and pastors to speak scriptural truth about candidates for office... [C]hurches faced a choice of either continuing their tradition of speaking out or silencing themselves in order to retain their church's tax exemption... It is time for the intimidation and threats to end. Churches and pastors have a constitutional right to speak freely and truthfully from the pulpit — even on candidates and voting — without fearing loss of their tax exemption."

Of the 33 congregations listed by the ADF as participating in the event, seven are listed in the database of Southern Baptist congregations available at www.sbc.net. The list of pastors who registered with the Alliance Defense Fund as participating in Pulpit Freedom Sunday can be found at www.telladf.org/UserDocs/PFSparticipants.pdf.

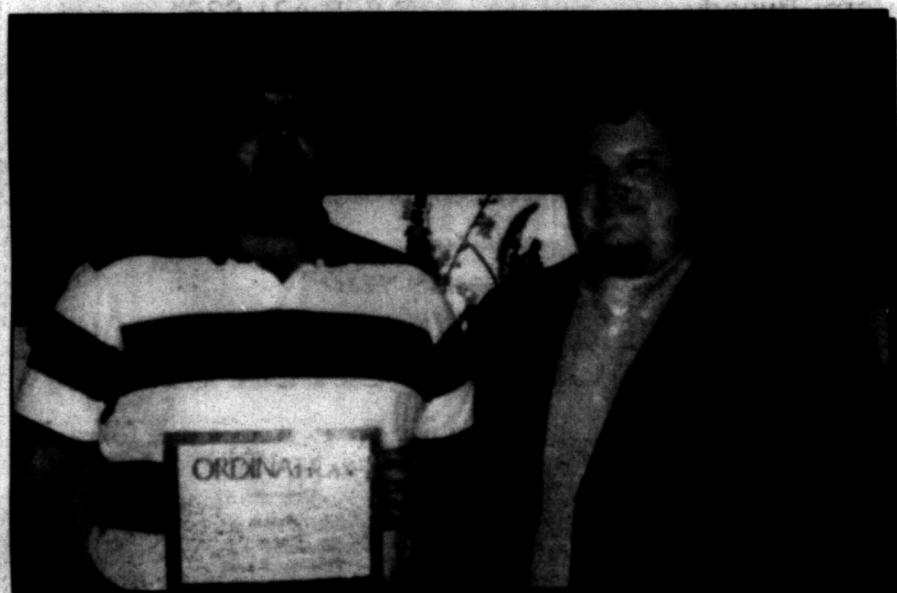
JUST FOR THE RECORD



3. Simpson ordination



4a. Miller ordination



4b. Brannon ordination



5. Deacon ordination, First Church, Lauderdale



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

1. Dumas Church, Dumas, held a senior adult day Sept. 16, with Scott Hudson giving a concert of hymns and gospel music. Several churches participated in the event and meal.
2. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, is hosting The Telestials in concert Oct. 12, 6 p.m.
3. First Church, Byhalia, ordained Jeff Simpson as deacon Sept. 15. Shown are Christal Simpson, Simpson, and pastor Anthony P. Langley.
4. Duck Hill Church, Duck Hill recently ordained Anthony Brannon and Wayne Miller with pastor Chas Rowland, right.
5. First Church, Lauderdale, ordained Earl Turner and Jimmy Gibson as deacons Sept. 21. Shown are Turner, Mary Carol Turner, Cathey Gibson, Gibson, and pastor Ryan Culpepper.
6. First Church, Soso: Vacation Bible School, June 8 - 13; enrollment of 119; average attendance, 102. Shown are some of the participants.
7. Children in Action from Beulah Church, Decatur, collected items for Christmas in August. Shown, from left, are Avery Ramage, Kayla Ramage, Britney Graham, Heston Harrison, Jessie Ware, Kristen Ramage, and Timmy Dean.
8. Diamondhead Church, Gulf Coast Association, ordained Jimmy Taylor and Bill Smith as deacons Sept. 28. Shown are Taylor, pastor Randy Rich, and Smith.
9. Duaine and Lou Morgan, Salem Church, Neshoba County Association, attended the associations Senior Adult Day Aug. 26. There were 177 other senior adults from several churches participating. Ann Craven, music: Doug Jones, testimony; Aaron Tucker and Glenn Jackson, comedy skit.



6. First Church, Soso, VBS



7. Beulah Church, Decatur



8. Diamondhead Church deacon ordination



9. The Morgans

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 9, 2008

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

AREA KEYBOARD FESTIVALS – 2009

AREA	LOCATION	FESTIVAL LEADER	PHONE C=Church O=Office
THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2009 – 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.			
Area 2	FBC, 300 N. Church Street, Tupelo , 38804	Randy Wood	C-662-842-1327
Area 4	Fairview BC, 127 Airline Rd., Columbus , 39702	Slater Murphy	C-662-328-2924
Area 5	FBC, Jackson, 431 N. State St., Jackson , 39201	Wyndy South	O-601-292-3272
Area 6	Poplar Springs Dr. BC, 4032 Poplar Springs Dr., Meridian , 39305	Lloyd Sutton	C-601-485-5106
Area 7	FBC, 1700 Delaware Ave., McComb , 39648	Jane Wilkinson	C-601-684-2971
Area 8	FBC, 607 W. Fifth St., Laurel , 39442	Phillip Alford	C-601-649-5710
Area 9	FBC, 902 Live Oak Ave., Pascagoula , 39567	Joy Hughlett	C-228-762-2343
		Michaelle Harrison	
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2009 – 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.			
Area 1	Hernando BC, 11 E. Center St., Hernando , 38632	Barry Tweedy	C-662-421-6361
Area 8	Cartersville BC, 115 Cartersville Rd., Petal , 39465	Kathy Vail	O-601-318-6181
SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2009 – 9:30 - NOON			
Area 3	Emmanuel BC, 245 Meadowbrook Rd., Grenada , 38901	Barry Worrell	C-662-226-5316
Area 3	North Greenwood BC, 615 Grand Blvd., Greenwood , 38935	Patricia Ethridge	C-662-453-2801

For more information, contact the Church Music Department: 1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3272, wsouth@mbcb.org

Bivocational/Small Church Ministers attending the Mississippi Baptist Convention in October

Brothers, smart ladies and friends ... we have a big day planned at the start of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Our council will convene at 3 p.m. on Monday, October 27, 2008, in the Sky Room on the 4th floor of the Baptist Building. **All Mississippi bivocational/small church MINISTERS AND THEIR WIVES are invited to a BANQUET AND DIALOGUE at 5 p.m. We will break at 6:30 to attend the Pastors Conference at First Baptist, Jackson.**

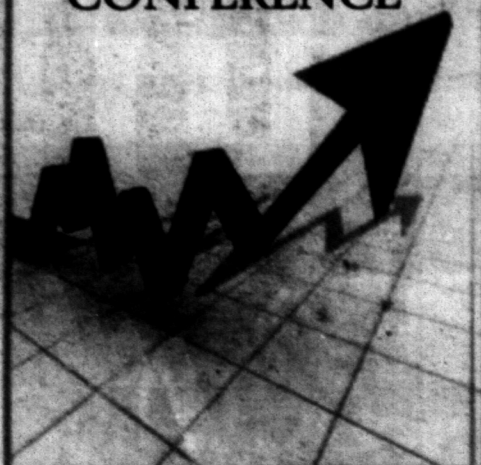
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2008:

3:00 p.m. Mississippi Council on Bivocational/Small Church Ministries Meeting
5:00 Bivocational/Small Church Ministers and Wives Banquet
5:30 "What's Happening in Your Life, Your Family and Your Church?"
6:30 Pastors Conference, First Baptist, Jackson

Please E-mail or call Kay McDonnell (kmcdonnell@mbcb.org or 601.292.3305; 1.800.748.1651, ext. 305) to confirm your attendance.



GROWTH SPIRAL CONFERENCE



**NOVEMBER 10
NORTHCREST BC
MERIDIAN
9 A.M.-NOON**

For more info, contact the
Sunday School Department:
601-292-3374,
1-800-748-1651 or
jclendinning@mbcb.org.



**READY!
FIRE!
AIM???**

Do you think sometime we get the order all wrong? That we shoot for targets in ministry without really knowing what we are aiming for? Maybe even firing out ministry projects just to hope that there is a target somewhere?

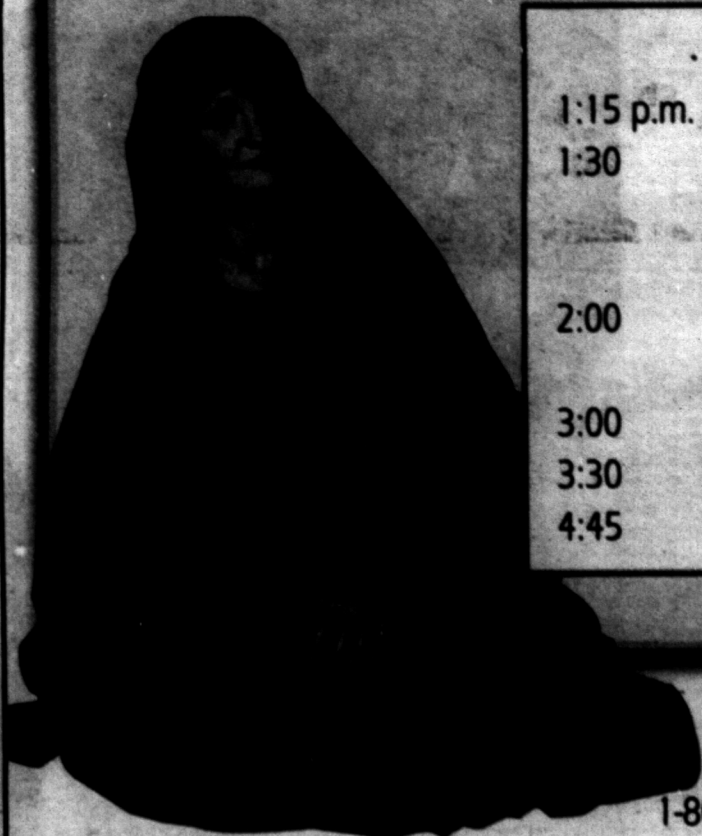
The Sunday School Growth Spiral is a tool to help your church aim for building an on-mission Sunday School organization, designed for evangelism, discipleship, ministry, fellowship, and worship. The Growth Spiral plan will help any church diagnose their own church health, and aim for future growth. And it will help you find the target!

**In addition, this conference
will keep your church on target for:**

- Enrollment
- Attendance
- Prospects
- Teaching Units
- Ministry Touches
- Space
- Workers
- Training
- S.S. Leadership Mtgs.
- Worship Attendance
- Offerings
- Baptisms

Ministers' Wives Conference

"At the feet of Jesus" presented by Rita Sweatt



Agenda

- 1:15 p.m. Registration - Chapel, FBC, Jackson
- 1:30 Welcome and introductions
Alan Woodward, Fellowship greeting
Shirley Futral
- 2:00 "At the Feet of Jesus" -
Mary of Bethany
- 3:00 Fellowship
- 3:30 "Listening and Loving at the Feet of Jesus"
- 4:45 Adjourn

For more info contact the Pastor/Leadership
Development Department: 601-292-3305,
1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

Interim Pastor Training



Lee County Baptist
Association Office

TUPELO

Tuesday

**November 11
9 a.m. - noon**

LED BY:

Alan Woodward

Director

MBCB Pastor/Leadership
Development Department

Bruce Cappleman

Director

MBCB Church-Minister
Relations Department

For more information, contact
Pam May
Church-Minister Relations Department
601-292-3225
1-800-748-1651
or E-mail pmay@mbcb.org

TAKE IT TO YOUR WORLD



Tom Edwards

YOUTH EVANGELISM CHALLENGE

DECEMBER 29-30, 2008

Mississippi College - Clinton, Miss.

Details:

For more info: Contact the Evangelism
Department at 601-292-3278, 1-800-748-1651
or jellis@mbcb.org

REGISTRATION BEGINS

Mon., Dec. 29, 1:00 p.m.

CHALLENGE CONCLUDES

Tue. Dec. 30, 3:30 p.m.

GET READY!

student minister's retreat

2008

NOVEMBER 10-12

Lake Tiak O'Khata
Louisville, Miss.

SPEAKERS:

Rick Morton, NOBTS

Temple FC, Hattiesburg

Randy Hall, Stone Mountain

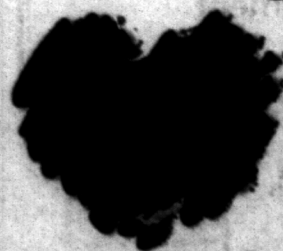
Evangelism

WORSHIP LEADER:

Chris Layton

ATTENTION: CHURCH LIBRARIANS CLM RETREAT

Mark your calendars early!!!



Ministry
from
the Heart

March 19-21, 2009, GARAYWA

Camp and Conference Center, Clinton, Miss.



Jim Futral



Jim Worthing

Contact: Communication Services: 601-292-3378, 1-800-748-1651 or E-mail jchen@mbcb.org

Pray this day for...

October 10 - October 23, 2008

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Galatians 6:9

Pray for the Mother/Daughter Overnight, Garaywa, 10th-11th. Pray that the mothers and daughters will develop a joint interest in mission that they can participate in for the rest of their lives.

In the midst of economic tensions in the USA, and in the midst of anything that makes people feel vulnerable, we have an absolutely marvelous opportunity to introduce people to the God that really loves them no matter what's going on around them. Pray for a harvest among those who might not normally see their need for the Lord.

World Hunger (CAC Emphasis)
As believers, this time of financial crisis in our country can be a time a incredible blessing as we take a serious look at how we spend our financial blessings. Ask God to show you how he might want you to change your lifestyle so that you might be a part of the answer to the problem of "World Hunger."

The church leaders in India at large are petitioning the Central Government, asking them not only to step in but also to ban the entities that are responsible for the brutal persecution of Christians that is spreading throughout the country. Pray with Indian Christians for justice and the courage to stand strong in the midst of such injustice.

Pray for the Minister of Education Leader Lab at Garaywa. Pray that these ministers will be encouraged in the fellowship with one another and learn fresh new ideas that might be an instrument for furthering their ministries in their churches.

Foreign missionaries have expressed fears of being forced to leave Bolivia. Fortunately, local Christians are there to stay. Last year, a Bolivian believer, Juana, planted a church in a rural village. Pray for the nationals to continue the work of ministry since there is absolutely no threat of them being kicked out of their country.

Authorities in Azerbaijan have opened a new investigation into the June arrest of pastor Hamid Shabanov (shu-BAH-nov). He was falsely charged with having an illegal weapon following a police raid on his house in the village of Alabad. Pray that the Azerbaijan government will allow religious freedom and release this pastor from jail.

Pray for the Women's Retreat, "Fueled by Faith," at Garaywa. Pray for the speakers to totally surrender to the Lord that He might speak through them directly to the needs of those attending. Pray that God's Spirit would move in a mighty way during this time and hearts would receive a renewed vision to be on mission for God.

Three months of hurricane season remain, and the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere faces even more potential damage. Directly in the path of many hurricanes, Haiti has already been pummeled by hurricanes Gustav and Ike and tropical storms Fay and Hanna. Pray for those seeking to minister in the name of our Lord in this area.

Pray for upcoming governmental elections in Bangladesh. Past outbreaks of violence against Christians have occurred, and safety could be an issue. A caretaker government has been ruling Bangladesh since violent disputes among major political parties broke out over rigged polling last January. Pray for the safety of believers.

There's a disconcerting report coming out of Iran. There is some debate taking place within the government about those who are preaching through the television and various forms of media, that they would be targets of the government if they continue to see people come to Christ. Pray for God's protection of believers in Iran.

Pray for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee Meeting, 10 a.m. Pray that all decisions made will be in line with God's perfect will. Pray for the upcoming Mississippi Baptist Convention. Pray for the direction and control of the Holy Spirit upon all decisions made by the delegates on behalf of Mississippi Baptists.

Pray that the upcoming convention will be a testimony to the world of the difference Christ makes when He is the Lord of large meetings such as this gathering. Pray that Mississippi Baptists will be motivated to go back to their home churches and live exemplary lives among one another and in the secular world that God may be glorified.

Pray for the safe travel of all of those coming to the convention. Pray for all of the staff working in the unseen places, whose work makes the convention run smoothly. Pray for those operating the video and audio equipment. Pray that all of the equipment will work correctly. Pray for the strength of those who work long hours behind the scenes.

Chaplains Annual Fall Banquet October 28, 2008

4:45-6:30 p.m.
Skyroom, Baptist Building
515 Mississippi Street
Jackson, Miss.

All career, volunteer, and retired chaplains are invited to join us for dinner and a time of entertainment.

For more information, call Carol Wright in Men's Ministry at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 334, or 601-292-3334.



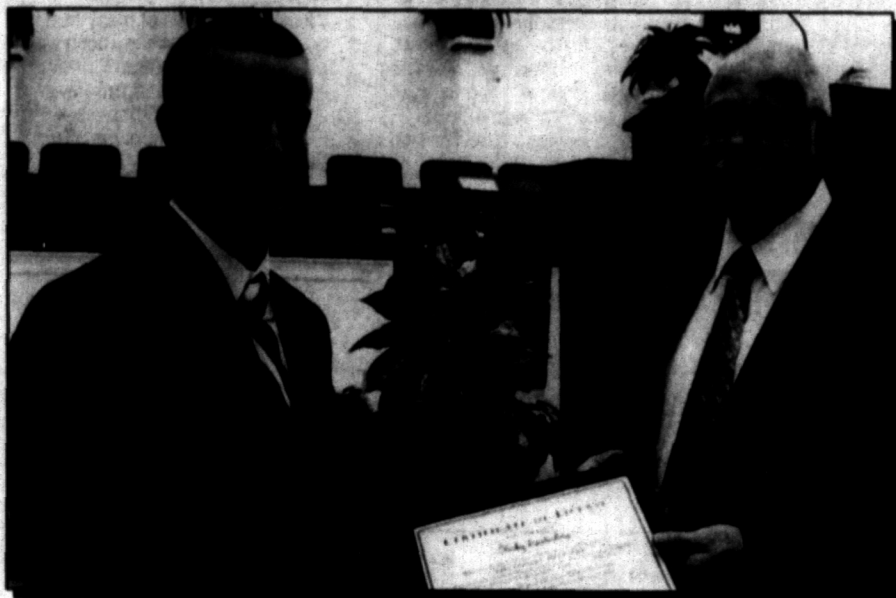
October 19
FBC, Winona, 6 p.m.

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



10. New Liberty Church



11. Easterling and Garrard



12. Hebron Church, Smithdale



13. Tillatoba Church car show

10. The juniors class from New Liberty Church, Tishomingo Association, held a back to school drive to collect supplies for school. Shown is the class.

11. Macedonia Church, Petal, licensed Koby Easterling to the ministry Sept. 7. Shown are Easterling and pastor Jimmie Garrard.

12. The Children on Mission of Hebron Church, Smithdale, recently celebrated Christmas in August by collecting and delivering snacks to the children at Dickerson Place near Brookhaven. Shown are the participants.

13. Tillatoba Church, Tillatoba, sponsored their 1st annual Open Car Show Sept. 20. The car show helped raise money for a new van. Shown are George Williams, Homer Melton, pastor Rickey Harris, Tommy McCool, Gary Beavers, and Bob Sturdivant.

14. Carrollton Church, Carrollton, recently ordained Warren Long as deacon. Shown are Ronnie White, Long, Lisa Long, and pastor Gary Bunch.

15. The Mission Friends class of First Church, McLaurin, are shown wearing their new logo t-shirts with Rhea Murry.

16. Pearl River Association will host its annual Women's Conference Oct. 18, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Steep Hollow Church, Sandy Denton, guest speaker; Cindy Simmons, music. Cost, \$10. Registration deadline, Oct. 13. There will also be a worship and Bible Study Oct. 17. To register or for more information, call (601) 798-2318 or 795-4638.

17. Glade Church, Laurel, is hosting Gary McSpadden in concert Nov. 2, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Call (601) 649-4246 for information.

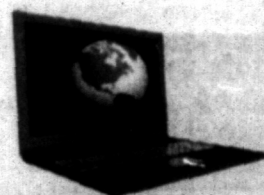
18. Highland Church, Crystal Springs, ordained Josh Granger and Ben Waltman as deacons. Shown are Waltman, Cheryl Waltman, pastor David Patterson, Granger, and Melanie Granger.

19. Hopewell Church, Choctaw County, will hold dedication services for their new fellowship hall Oct. 12. Services begin at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch. Tim Black, pastor.

20. Springfield Church, Morton, is hosting Christian comedian and motivational speaker Freddie Pierce Oct. 9, 6:30 p.m. A love offering will be taken. For more information, call (601) 732-6673.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS



Visit us online at
www.mbc.org
to learn about all Mississippi Baptist
mission opportunities.



14. Carrollton Church deacon ordination



15. First Church, McLaurin, Mission Friends



18. Highland Church, Crystal Springs, deacon ordination

Southern Baptist leader L.P. Leavell II dies Sept. 26

WICHITA FALLS, Texas (BP and local reports) — Landrum P. Leavell II, longtime Mississippi Baptist pastor and president emeritus of New Orleans Seminary, died Sept. 26 in Wichita Falls, Texas. He was 81.

Leavell's funeral was held at First Church in Wichita Falls on September 30, with interment on October 3 at Oak Hill Cemetery in Newnan, Ga. A memorial service was held in New Orleans Seminary's Roland Q. Leavell Chapel on October 7.

During his 27 years as a pastor, Leavell served at Union Church, Magnolia (1948-51); Crosby Church, Crosby (1951-53); First Church, Charleston (1953-56); First Church, Gulfport (1956-63); and First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas (1963-75).

Leavell was elected president of New Orleans Seminary in January 1975, serving in that role until his retirement Dec. 31, 1994. Leavell served as interim president until Dec. 31, 1995.

Born in Ripley, Tn., on Nov. 26, 1926, Leavell was raised in Newnan, Ga., where his father, Leonard O. Leavell, was pastor of the First Church. He was ordained to the Gospel ministry in 1948.

Leavell earned a B.A. in English from Mercer University in Georgia and a B.D.

degree and a Th.D. in New Testament and Greek from New Orleans Seminary.

Leavell served in many capacities in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He was first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1968 and president of the SBC Pastor's Conference in 1971. Leavell served as president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas from 1971-73.

Since his retirement Leavell served on the board of trustees at Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton, which is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

"Dr. Leavell was a great Baptist leader, a true friend of Mississippi College and we all mourn his passing," said MC President Lee Royce.

Leavell "was an outstanding theological educator," said Edward McMillan, a retired MC vice president for graduate studies and a former history professor. "He was a very successful pastor. He was known all over the South as a very effective Baptist leader."

"By any standard of measurement, Dr. Leavell is one of the greatest presidents that this seminary ever had," current New Orleans Seminary President Chuck Kelley said. "Greatness is the ability to fulfill your calling effectively and efficiently,

whatever the circumstances, while nurturing and building up the people around you in the process. This is the essence of the life and ministry of Dr. Landrum P. Leavell II.

"If I may adapt one of his favorite expressions, as a leader Dr. Leavell was better than many, equal to any, and second to none."

During his 20-year tenure, the seminary became an innovator in theological education while continuing to emphasize evangelism, missions, and local church ministry. A gifted writer, Leavell authored or contributed to 14 books, including *Angels, Angels, Angels*, and *Twelve Who Followed Jesus*.

Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville and a native of Kosciusko, said Leavell "finished his extraordinary ministry as a seminary president, but at heart he was a devoted pastor... Dr. Leavell preached Jesus and always issued a heartfelt appeal for the unsaved to come to Jesus. He has left a wonderful legacy of life and ministry as an example for family, friends and fellow Southern Baptists."

In addition to his wife of 55 years, survivors include his sister Margaret Leavell Mann of Newnan, Ga.; son Landrum P. Leavell III and Susanne of Denton, Texas; daughter Ann Leavell



Landrum P. Leavell II

Beauchamp of Greensboro, Ga.; son Roland Q. Leavell II and Lisa of Jackson; son David E. Leavell and Vicki of Springfield, Tn., and 10 grandchildren.

Bivocational music course beginning across state on Oct. 13

October 13 begins the sixth of eight courses at six locations in Mississippi for bivocational ministers of music sponsored by New Orleans Seminary and Providence Learning Center.

Music Administration/Staff Relations will meet once a week for two hours for eight consecutive weeks at the following locations and times

- Broadmoor Church, Madison, beginning October 20 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) Jimmy McCaleb, teacher, (601) 924-1233.

- First Church, Booneville, beginning October 21 (7-9 p.m.) LuAnne Ford, teacher, (662) 728-6272.

- Northcrest Church, Meridian, beginning October 13 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) Buddy McElroy, teacher, (601) 938-8668 or (601) 679-1887.

- First Church, Greenwood, beginning October 28 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) Barry Bouchillon, teacher, (662) 897-3075 or (662) 453-5935.

- Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, beginning October 20 (7-9 p.m.) Mark Hamilton, teacher, (601) 894-5848.

- Handsboro Church, Gulfport, beginning October 21 (7-9 p.m.) Louis White, teacher, (228) 896-3796.

The eight courses are Song

Leading; Worship Planning; Reading Music: Rhythm/Pitch; Reading Music: Harmony/Melody; Hymnology; Music Administration/Staff Relations; Survey of Music Resources; and Class Voice.

These courses, which meet for two hours each week for eight weeks, are designed to provide basic training for bivocational music directors and other music leaders in churches.

The cycle of courses is scheduled over a two-year period. Each course is independent and has no prerequisite. Each student who completes the eight

courses earns a certificate from the Providence Learning Center of New Orleans Seminary.

There is a one-time enrollment fee of \$25.00. The cost of each course is \$125.00. A \$60.00 scholarship is available for all first-time students. Students already enrolled are not eligible. The grant is limited to one person per church.

For more information, contact the teachers listed above or Jimmy McCaleb, Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3273 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 273. E-mail: jmccaleb@mbcb.org.

Hurricanes devastate Cuban food crops

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — As Cuban government officials warned of a severe shortage of food during the next six months, Florida Baptists were exploring ways to ship food and building supplies to aid its decade-long partner, the Western Cuba Baptist Convention.

The food shortage was caused when Hurricanes Gustav and Ike ripped through the island nation earlier this month, damaging crops of rice, beans, plantains, and sweet potatoes, killing farm animals and,

according to CNN, causing an estimated \$5 billion in damage.

"It is heartbreaking to see areas already struggling with poverty and scarcity to be so badly damaged," said Florida Baptist Convention President Willy Rice, who was among a team of Florida Baptists who traveled to Cuba and assessed the damage.

"Many small villages will be without power for months and desperately need supplies for building and repairs," added the pastor of Calvary

Church in Clearwater.

The team sought and received assurances from the government that additional supplies and food sent by Southern Baptists would be distributed to churches in the Western Cuba Baptist Convention as intended.

PIANIST NEEDED: TRACE RIDGE Baptist Church in Ridgeland, Miss., for Sunday am & pm services and choir practice before evening service. Call Beverly King at 601-992-2855.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH IN Brookhaven, MS, is seeking a full-time worship leader to lead a contemporary worship ministry. Please send resumes to 749 North Jackson St., Brookhaven, MS, 39601 or email to ryan@cbcbrookhaven.org.

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, Inc., old Bibles rebound. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662 453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743.

CABIN IN GATLINBURG FOR RENT: 2 bedrm 2 bath, full kitchen, great view of National Park, \$95.00/night. Call for information 281-855-4469 or 832-922-0401/0141. Email pdiw4760@att.net.

PERMA-COAT SIDING & REMODELING: vinyl siding, sunrooms, metal roofs, house washing, patio covers and much more. Call James Thompson at 601-850-9620 or 601-932-3979.

PASSION PLAY OF OBERAMMERGAU. Visit the majestic Alps of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland June 21 - July 1, 2010, (only one weekend). See the world famous passion play. Contact Rev. Bill Stanford, 601-924-3747.

AFFORDABLE BEACHFRONT & beachside vacation condos. Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, Alabama. Best value on the beach! Lowest Prices! Over 50 top quality condos! Your satisfaction is our top priority, owned & operated by christian family since 1988, 205-556-0368 or 205-752-1231. www.gulfshorescondos.com.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. 601-992-2092, Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

FOR BEST RATES ON: MEDICARE supplements, Major Medical & Group Health Insurance plans as well as home and auto. Call Turner Insurance, 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.turner-insuranceonline.com.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970.

STAINED GLASS: NEW WINDOWS and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 877-477-1899.

CLARK AUCTIONS: SELL YOUR REAL estate or business in 30 days. We buy estates. Nick Clark, R.E. Broker and auctioneer, 601-317-2536.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES. Baptist murals, heaters, lighting, seating, wall crosses, pew cushions, kinkl-glas, carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of Texas, 800-728-8291.

ACCOMPANIMENT: NEED A PIANIST? We have piano CDs for churches to sing by! Just what you need if you don't have a pianist. Call Worship Service Resources at 1-877-977-6800 or visit www.pianocds.org for info and a free sample cd. Hymns, praise songs, blended, power point - special church pricing.

FOR RENT: 3 BDR, 3 BTH DUPLEX, Gulf Shores, AL. 601-362-6965.

Carpenter Bus Sales
2007 Clearance Sale!
Save up to \$14,000 on a New 2007 model bus.
Exclusive provider for
LifeWay Church Bus Sales
1.800.370.6180 • carpenterbus.com

- 1. First Church, Purvis:** James Messer Bible Conference, Oct. 12 - 15; Sun., 8 and 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Emir Caner, Don Wilton, Fred Luter, and John Sullivan, speakers; Phil Willis and Sons of the Father, music; children's worship nightly with Perry "Airhead" Robbins.
- 2. Mt. Carmel Church, Edinburg:** Homecoming, Oct. 12; worship, 10:30 a.m.; Bobby Waggoner, speaker; Keith Fulton, pastor.
- 3. Holly Springs Church, Foxworth:** Homecoming, Oct. 12; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground and afternoon singing; Rickey Gray, speaker; Ron Jordan, pastor.
- 4. Siloam Church, West Point:** Homecoming, Oct. 12; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by potluck meal; Stan Proctor, speaker; Diane Proctor, music.
- 5. Shiloh Church, Corinth:** Homecoming, Oct. 12, 10 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing. Bret Harper, speaker; Saving Grace, music; Philip Caples, pastor.
- 6. Center Hill Church, Olive Branch:** Homecoming and community celebration, Oct. 12; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by potluck lunch and entertainment; Otha and Linda Geeslin, music.
- 7. Sabougla Church, Calhoun City:** 125th anniversary, Oct. 12; services, 10 a.m., followed by lunch and fellowship. Charles Abbey, pastor.
- 8. Temple Church, Myrtle:** 60th anniversary, Oct. 12; singing, 10 a.m., followed by preaching and fellowship meal; Richard Johnson, speaker.
- 9. Carey Chapel Church, Red Banks:** Homecoming, Oct. 12; dinner on the grounds, noon; games and singing, 1 p.m.; Barry Littlefield, speaker; The Disciples, music.
- 10. McAdams Church, Attala Association:** Homecoming, Oct. 12; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Kelly Mitchell, speaker; James E. Young, pastor.
- 11. McCool Church, McCool:** Homecoming, Oct. 12; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Bryan Bailey, speaker; Johnny & Cindy Doude, music; Avery Dixon, pastor.
- 12. Harrisville Church, Simpson Association:** Homecoming, Oct. 12; Bible study, 9 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m.; singspiration, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Richard Mayfield, speaker; Bob Harris, music; David Sartin, pastor.
- 13. Mt. Pleasant Church, Raleigh:** Homecoming, Oct. 12; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon service; Carey Bass, speaker; Latrelle Crumpton, music.
- 14. First Church, Sumrall:** Revival, Oct. 12 - 15; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Douglas Davis, speaker; Eliana, music.
- 15. Damascus Church, Flora:** Homecoming, Oct. 12; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish fellowship; Sonny Bradshaw, pastor; Sanctuary Choir, music.
- 16. Shelton Church, Moselle:** Homecoming, Oct. 12; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; Harold Rowzee, speaker.
- 17. Crossroads Church, Petal:** Homecoming, Oct. 12; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and singing by Crimson River; Jimmie L. Windham, pastor.
- 18. Sherman Church, Sherman:** Homecoming and 120th anniversary, Oct. 12, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon and singing, 1:30 p.m. No Sunday School.

- 1. New Orleans Seminary** is hosting Singspiration, Oct. 14, at the Leavell Chapel, 7:30 p.m. The event will feature the combined voices of the seminary chorus as well as the congregation. Classic hymns and contemporary worship music will be featured. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call Paul South at (504) 282-4455, ext. 3290.
- 2. Chris Ferguson and Ashley Waldrep**, center, were recently awarded the Church Related Vocations scholarships at **Blue Mountain College**. Ferguson, from Clarksdale, received the Denham Scholarship and Waldrep, from Athens, Ala., received the Carpenter-Gandy Scholarship. With Ferguson and Waldrep at the BMC banquet are, from left: Ronald Meeks, director of church relations; Ronald Bain, chair of the Department of Biblical Studies; Bettye Rogers Coward, BMC president; and Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.
- 3. Karl Rove**, former senior advisor and Deputy Chief of Staff to George W. Bush, will speak at **Mississippi College's** scholarship banquet Mar. 30, 2009.
- 4. Mississippi College's** 2008 Homecoming weekend Oct. 24-25 spotlights a new theme - "Generation Choctaw" - to spotlight the school's heritage and the MC of the early 21st Century. For details on homecoming activities, call MC staffers toll-free at (866) 232-3945 or contact Ross Aven at (601) 925-3228 or aven@mc.edu.



2. Blue Mountain scholarship winners

OBITUARIES

- 1. Joseph Stewart Johnson**, 75, died Sept. 12. He is survived by his wife Mary Sue Latham Johnson, sons Joseph Stewart Johnson, Jr., Timothy Latham Johnson, John Marion Johnson, and three grandchildren. He was a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He pastored churches in Mississippi before coming to work for LifeWay Christian Resources as an editor of inspirational books. He retired from LifeWay in 1992 after 23 years.

Call for free BROCHURE
BAPTISTRIES
 HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
 TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679
 www.fiberglasschurchprod.com
 FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.
 3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

RiteBus • RitePrice • RitePlace
 Talk to Bill Clark 601-750-2364
 www.ritewaybussales.com



RiteWay Bus Sales
 2069 Hwy 49 South, Florence, MS 39073

STATE CHANGES

- 1. Hebron Church, Smithdale**, has called Cletus Moak as pastor effective Aug. 10. He is shown with his wife, Linda.
- 2. Hopewell Church, Crystal Springs**, has called Don Kleeb as pastor. Kleeb and his wife Paula began their ministry Sept. 14. He previously served Mt. Zion Church, Florence.
- 3. Robinwood Church, Saucier**, has called Scott Robertson as minister of music and youth. Shown are pastor Terry L. Upchurch and Robertson.



1. The Moaks



3. Upchurch and Robertson

Topeka Baptist Church

(A Southern Baptist Congregation)

Jayess, Mississippi

Invites Your Indication of Interest In

\$1,400,000

First Mortgage Bonds

EARN
UP TO

6.95%

Issue Date: September 17, 2008

Interest Rates Range
4.30% to 6.95%

Bond Maturity Range: 6 months to 30 years

Bonds are available in multiples of \$250. These bonds may be placed in self-directed retirement accounts in most cases.

This announcement is neither an offer nor a solicitation of an offer to buy, nor shall there be any sale of these securities in any State in which such offer, solicitation, or sale is not authorized. The offer is made by prospectus only. For more information about this bond issue, obtain a prospectus, which describes all of the particulars of this undertaking. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. All bonds are offered at face value, subject to prior sale.

**Rives
Leavell
& Co.**

1430 Lelia Drive
Jackson, MS 39216

P.O. Box 4900
Jackson, MS 39296
601-948-4500

For Additional Information Contact

Stephen Samson
800.748.8877

ssamson@rivesleavell.com
 www.rivesleavell.com

Fireproof draws audiences, making expansion possible

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — In its second week at the box office, the unashamedly Christian movie Fireproof topped \$12 million in total receipts and stayed among the top five movies in average theater revenue.

Fireproof averaged \$4,776 in 852 theaters, according to boxofficemojo.com, placing it at number five in average revenue per theater. The movie pulled in just over \$4 million overall, claiming the number eight spot in total weekend revenue.

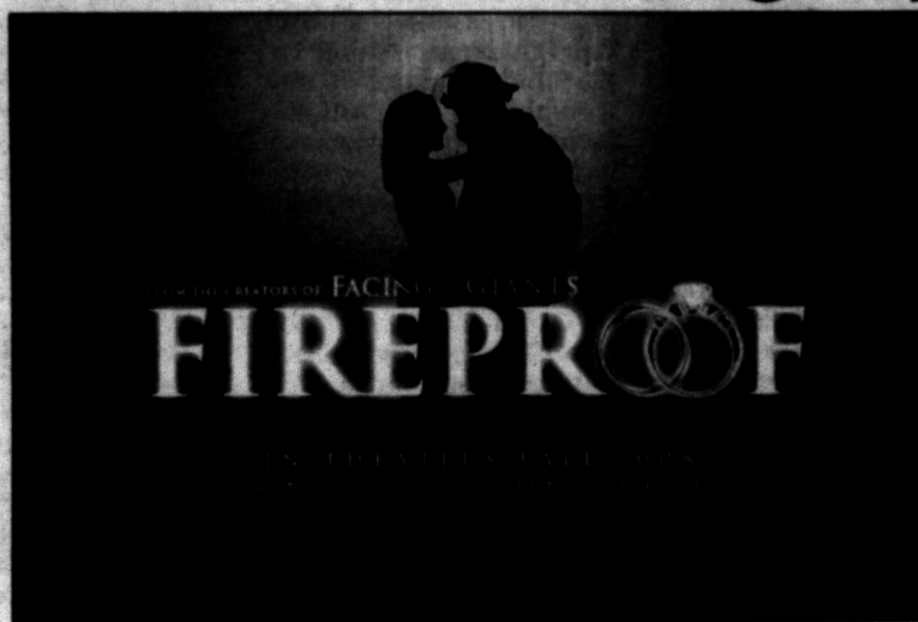
The only movie that brought in significantly better per-theater revenue was Beverly Hills Chihuahua, which hit its opening weekend in 3,215 venues, averaging \$9,020 per theater and grossing \$29 million.

The number two movie in average revenue this past weekend, Eagle Eye, scored only \$258 more per theater than Fireproof. While Eagle Eye also was in its second week at the box office, Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist was opening at 2,421 venues and ranked third in weekend gross but pulled in only \$181 more per theater than Fireproof.

In its opening weekend, Fireproof pulled in an average of \$7,764 in each of 839 theaters and placed fourth in gross revenue with \$6.5 million. Though the makers of Fireproof are not in it for the money and funnel the proceeds back into charitable work, box office receipts are a measure of the film's popularity with the American public.

Fireproof also continues to garner significant national media exposure, including articles by Time magazine and The New York Times as well as a spot on ABC's World News Tonight.

ABCNews.com, which ran a story Oct. 3 with the headline, "Fireproof Shows Christian Movies Sell," noted the quandary Hollywood faces trying to figure out how a film that was made for \$500,000, relied on word of mouth instead of traditional advertising, and used a volunteer cast could possibly open at number four in the country and take in more than six million dollars in ticket sales during the first week.



"The film exceeded even the filmmakers' expectations," the ABC article said. "They were hoping to make three million or four million dollars and crack the top 10 when the film opened last weekend. Instead, they topped the Coen Brothers' Burn After Reading, with Brad Pitt and George Clooney, in its third week, and Spike Lee's Miracle at St. Anna, which made only \$3.5 million in its opening weekend."

Fireproof, starring Kirk Cameron as Caleb Holt, follows a fireman as he works to save his marriage from the brink of divorce. The film is a product of Sherwood Pictures, a ministry of Sherwood Church in Albany, Ga.

"We tried to make a movie that speaks to your middle-American family and couple facing all the common issues in marriage," Alex Kendrick, director of Fireproof, told ABC. "Hollywood is good at reflecting the values and lifestyles of people in California and New York, but there are so many of us who have a standard of morality and faith that is rarely reflected in films coming out of Hollywood."

Jim McBride, the church's executive pastor, told

ABC that Sherwood Pictures was not seeking to win an Oscar with the film but to win people's hearts. "We're in this for the ministry aspect of it," he said.

Cameron told ABC he has received e-mails from couples who were on the verge of separation but then saw Fireproof and renewed their marriage vows. One man, Cameron said, stood up in the theater after the film and said, "I am Caleb Holt, and I need 10 men to pray for me and my marriage." About 20 men walked over, he said.

Kendrick, who made the film with his brother Stephen, told Time magazine they wanted to create a product that didn't go along with Hollywood's out-of-touch fictional reality.

"Hollywood is gifted at high production quality and acting," Kendrick said, "but their morals and life perspectives are so different from the rest of us. New York and California seem to have one type of culture and then there's the rest of America."

"We're trying to make movies that speak to what we believe the American family struggles with—communication, financing, intimacy."

The Time article Oct. 3 also marveled over the film's low budget and high level of success, noting that Fireproof speaks "to an audience that has often eluded studios—devout Christians." It also said that on Oct. 10, Fireproof's distributor will add another 200 theaters to the movie's initial 850-theater run.

Also enjoying popularity is a book called The Love Dare, which started as a plot device for the film but had reached number eight on Amazon's best-seller list by Oct. 6. The Kendrick brothers wrote the book, and it was rushed through printing in time for a simultaneous release with the film after people who attended screenings asked where they could get a copy of it.

"So often movies that try to incorporate a message of faith are so cheesy, and I've been in some of those cheesy movies," Cameron told Time. "Fireproof isn't that." Instead of a fee for acting in the film, Cameron accepted a donation to his children's charity, Camp Firefly.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)		
1. Publication Title	2. Publication Number	3. Filing Date
The Baptist Record	0005-5778	9/26/08
4. Issue Frequency	5. Number of Issues Published Annually	6. Annual Subscription Price
Weekly	50	\$9.35
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®)		
PO Box 530; Jackson MS 39205-0530		
515 Mississippi Street; Jackson MS 39201 (physical)		
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer)		
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; PO Box 530; Jackson MS 39205-0530		
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)		
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)		
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; PO Box 530; Jackson MS 39205-0530		
Editor (Name and complete mailing address)		
William H. Perkins, Jr.; PO Box 530; Jackson MS 39205-0530		
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)		
Michael A. Martin; PO Box 530; Jackson MS 39205-0530		
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)		
Full Name	Complete Mailing Address	
Mississippi Baptist Convention	PO Box 530; Jackson MS 39205	
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box		
Full Name	Complete Mailing Address	
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)		
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:		
[X] Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months		
[] Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)		

13. Publication Title		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below	
The Baptist Record		9-25-08	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Not press run)		85,092	84,923
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	84,350	84,197
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	0	0
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		84,350	84,197
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	511	501
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0	0
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	0	0
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))		511	501
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		84,861	84,698
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers at page 63)		231	225
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		85,092	84,923
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		99.9	99.9
16. Publication of Statement of Ownership			
[X] If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the October 9, 2008 issue of this publication. [] Publication not required.			
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner			Date
William H. Perkins, Jr. Editor			9-26-08
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).			

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

God Loves Sinners

Romans 5:6-19

By Bobby McKay

"Love the sinner, hate the sin." I doubt that I am the only one to have ever heard this statement. These six words have been spoken in sermons, testimonies, and worship services in churches across our country for many years. I hope that you will agree that the longer you look at this popular adage, the more erroneous it really is. Christians owe a great debt to the teachings of Steve Brown. He is a professor of pastoral theology and president of Key Life Ministries in Florida.

While I would not wholeheartedly agree with all of his teachings, his insights on grace and joy will strengthen your daily fellowship with the Lord. Brown discussed in specifics one day the relationship the church should have with those who are not yet

Christians. In his discussion, the previously mentioned statement came up. The commentary he provided that day has served as compass in how I strive to interrelate with people. Steve Brown stated, nowhere in the Bible does it tell us to love the sinner and hate the sin. If we do that, we take the focus off our need for forgiveness. It is better stated that we must love the sinner and hate our own sins.

Last week's lesson laid an essential foundation that reminded us we are all sinners. This week we revisit the tremendous truth of the substitutional death of Christ. God's love for sinful people and the desire to bring glory unto Himself were the motivations for providing a way for salvation.

Bobby McKay

I. Complete Reconciliation (Romans 5:6-11)
Think about all the terms and doctrines associated with the crucifixion of Christ. Forgiveness, propitiation, atonement, grace, love, and justification are just a sampling of the encompassing works

of the cross. Allow me to offer you another term that is often neglected when discussing the death of Christ. That word is reconciliation. If it is possible to love a word, I love this one. Always remember, we are reconciled to God and never God to us.

The best definition of reconciliation I have found is, "to bring two or more people back into a friendly relationship with each other". Before someone becomes a Christian, they stand in complete opposition to the holiness and righteousness of God. We tend to forget the complete separation our sins caused, which prohibit a harmonious relationship with God.

The reconciliation described in verse 10 is one of the most sig-

nificant actions that took place through the death of Jesus. Verse 11 in the ESV instructs us to "rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation". I am overwhelmed with gratitude and amazement when I think about God sending His Son to die, so that He might have eternal fellowship with us. Do not miss that. He would rather send His Son to die, than to ever live without us.

II. Continual Reminder (Romans 5:12-14)

Paul uses this opportunity to remind us about the pervasive effects sin has had in human history. Sin entered into this world through Adam and according to verse 14 "death reigned". Paul does not intend for these verses to discourage us in our relationship with the Lord; rather he wants to convey that we are all sinners by nature and our only hope for forgiveness is Jesus.

If you are the parent of a small child do you teach him/her to be selfish, rude, or disrespectful? No. We do not have to teach our children to be bad. The parent's challenge is to teach them to be

good. Paul wants us to realize that due to the sin nature we all possess, our descendants will inherit the need for forgiveness of sins as well as a restored relationship with God.

III. Colossal Response (Romans 5:15-19)

How does a supreme, sovereign God respond to sinful man? Grace, of course! Paul writes in these five verses that while sin entered the world through one man (Adam), it is by one man (Jesus) that our sins can be forgiven and covered. God responded to our condition with His own righteousness, because He knew there was no spiritual value within us. Billions of people have been condemned through Adam, but the atoning work of Christ is able to justify everyone who believes in Him. God responded by offering us the free gift of eternal life. Have you received this gift? Never fail to remember that it was because of His love for sinners like you and me, that we are able to know Jesus in a real and transforming way.

McKay is pastor of Oakvale Church, Oak Vale.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE Embrace God's Perspective

1 Samuel 16-17

By Ginger M. Caughman

God's perspective is vital when we are in the midst of circumstances we don't understand. Depend on God to speak to you. Henry Blackaby suggests we seek to see our circumstances from God's heart. ("Experiencing God," p. 97).

In this week's study, Saul's reign is ending but we see God at work through history. David's name is first mentioned in 1 Samuel 16:13 but will dominate our study until the end of November.

1. Take Steps to Move On 1 Sam 16:1

Samuel was still in mourning about Saul. All Christians, indeed all adults will face challenges, disappointments, and grief in life. Perhaps we have all responded in some of these ways: loss of perspective, depression, anger, withdrawal from normal activi-

ties, or acceptance. What did Samuel do?

2. Accept New Directions 1 Sam 16:2-5

Though Samuel's spirit was still heavy, he did what the Lord commanded. God spoke to Samuel, gave him a new mission, equipped him with direction, and a prophecy. "Go to Jesse. I've chosen one of his sons to be king." After Samuel prayed (yes, God can handle the questions and fears of our heart), God answered Samuel's concerns with a plan. Samuel obeyed God. As you read Scripture, perhaps you'll need these pronunciations of three of David's older brothers, as I did: Eliab [ih LIGH ab], Abinadab [uh BIN uh dab], and Shammah [SHAM uh]. Jesse had eight sons (1 Sam. 17:12).

3. Put Priority on What Pleases God 1 Sam 16:6-10

Samuel thought all of Jesse's sons were present. But God had



Ginger M. Caughman

chosen none of these. Even the father, Jesse, didn't consider his youngest son who was tending sheep. But our Father in Heaven wasn't using man's criteria. Feast on this beautiful verse and hide in your memory: "Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

I hope you have done the wonderful study "Experiencing God" (Blackaby/King, 1990). God used Henry Blackaby to change the lives of literally thousands including my husband Bill and myself. When our North American Mission Board hired Blackaby as "Director of Prayer and Spiritual Awakening," God was at work as all Southern Baptist agencies co-operated and asked Blackaby to meet with them and provide leadership in awakening a renewed sense of God's work in their lives and in the world. Through simple line drawings, a powerful testimony based on his intimate relationship with God through His Word, and the fire of God in his

eyes and life when he preached God's Word, Henry Blackaby is still being used of God in our generation. ("7 million copies sold, translated into 45 languages"). Now retired as president emeritus of Blackaby Ministries, International he still speaks regularly to challenge and renew Christians.

4. Complete God Given Tasks 1 Sam. 16:11-13

When David arrived, God told Samuel, "Rise and anoint him, he is the one." Samuel did as God commanded. "So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers." Samuel was ready to follow God's leading.

Many ask today, "Was the Holy Spirit active in the Old Testament?" Yes! Scripture gives many examples, an important one here. "From that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David with power" (1 Sam. 16:13 NIV).

Samuel moved beyond his disappointment and boldly followed God's task for him.

Has God given you a task? Focus your concern and energy on something God wants you to do. Like Samuel we can be

encouraged knowing God's Spirit is at work.

5. Gigantic Enemy 1 Sam. 16-17.

We see David's servant heart in the rest of Chapter 16 as he plays his harp for the king and becomes his armor-bearer. Music can soothe the troubled mind, heart, and spirit.

As you read the familiar story of David and Goliath (Chapter 17), notice Saul and David's actions. Saul gave David his blessing, "Go and the Lord be with you" (v. 37). God was directing David. The future king showed strong leadership with the heart of a servant. After David defeated the nine-foot tall Goliath, Saul asked: "whose son are you, young man?" David answered: "I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem" (1 Sam. 17:58).

"O Little Town of Bethlehem," the site of the birth of Emmanuel, the God-man, our future King and Savior, Jesus Christ! Prayerfully sing: "O holy Child of Bethlehem...Be born in us today" (Brooks/Redner, 1868).

Caughman teaches a senior ladies Sunday School class at First Church Magee.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Alabama Baptist family to appear on British TV show

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — A Southern Baptist family in Alabama hosted two unruly British teens for a week as part of a BBC reality show *World's Strictest Parents*, and the family gave a positive portrayal of a Christian approach to child rearing.

Mark and Lynn Garnett, who attend Shades Mountain Church in Birmingham, were chosen as the American couple who would host the teenagers because of their wholesomeness and Christian values, according to a report by *The Birmingham News*.

Sam Whittaker, the show's senior producer, told the newspaper that *World's Strictest Parents*, which is airing in Britain this month, was meant to be a serious documentary about how teens confront their own values under a different set of expectations.

Episodes with other teens were shot in other countries including Ghana and India, but for the American episode, 17-year-old Naomi Fisher and 16-year-old Ross Torry were sent to live with the Garnetts for eight days in July and August.

In Britain, Fisher was accustomed to spending her evenings in pubs, while Torry had become verbally abusive to his parents since embracing homosexuality a year ago, *The News* said.

"Culturally, the British overindulge their teens and shy away from enforcing dis-

cipline and boundaries..." the producers said in a recruiting letter. "In this series, we want to show our teens the benefits of growing up in a traditional family with strong morals, a sense of self-discipline, and a respect for others."

One way the producers got the word out in their search for a family with "clearly defined morality" was through the Rick and Bubba Show, which is popular on radio in the Southeast. Rick Burgess, one of the show's anchors, attends Shades Mountain Church with the Garnetts, and he put them in touch with the recruiters.

"One of the reasons we took on the show was because we're so sick of seeing Christians shown as fanatical zealots or complete nut jobs," Mark Garnett told *The News*. "We're not all Bible-thumping blowhards. We're blessed with children who are really obedient, not cowering in the corner because of what they're afraid we're going to do to them."

On the second day of filming, Garnett said the teens sat at the kitchen table and "unspooled" their "darkness-encrusted" life stories, according to the newspaper. On Day three, the Garnetts, who have three children of their own, were ready to abandon the project, *The News* said.

By that time, the British teens had "betrayed their trust, sprayed profanity in front of men at a homeless shelter, and



STRICT PARENTS — Mark Garnett (left) and his wife Lynn (right) join in a picture with their three children and two British teens who, as part of a BBC *World's Strictest Parents* reality show, spent a week with the Birmingham, Ala., family. The British teens are Naomi Fisher (second from right) and Ross Torry (third from left). The Garnetts' children are (from left) Mitchell, Hunter, and Heather. (BP special photo)

sneaked puffs of a cigarette on a bowling outing."

In addition to making the teens work at a homeless shelter, the Garnetts exposed them to Bible studies and church, the newspaper said. The show's introduction noted that only 10% of British citizens regularly attend church compared to 75% in Alabama.

"In Britain, they are 10-15

years in front of us in terms of their kids being out of control," Mark Garnett told *The News*. "What we tried to do is show them unconditional love."

Though the teens objected to the new way of life during the first of the week, by the end of their stay they had come to respect the Garnetts.

"The Garnetts' strict but loving regime touches Ross and Naomi and they return

home determined to mend their ways," a description of the show concludes.

The American episode was chosen to premiere the *World's Strictest Parents* series because the Garnetts were "clear in their principles," Whittaker, the producer, said. The series airs in Britain on BBC Three, a division with programming aimed at younger audiences.

Christian twins in Egypt to be turned over to Muslim father

ISTANBUL, Turkey (BP) — Following a decision by the Appeal Court of Alexandria in Egypt to grant custody of 13-year-old Coptic Christian twins to their Muslim father, their mother lives with the fear that police will take away her children at any moment.

Kamilia Gaballah has fought with

her ex-husband Medhat Ramses Labib over custody and alimony support of sons Andrew and Mario in 40 different cases since he left her and converted to Islam so that he could remarry in 1999.

The court ruled in favor of Labib on Sept. 24 in spite of an Egyptian law (Article 20), which grants custody of children to their mothers until the age of 15, and a fatwa (religious ruling) from Egypt's most respected Islamic scholar, Grand Mufti Ali Gomaa, giving her custody.

"This decision was dangerous because it was not taken in accordance with Egyptian law but according to sharia [Islamic] law," said Naguib Gobrael, Gaballah's lawyer and president of the Egyptian Union of Human Rights Organizations.

The lawyer told *Compass Direct News* that Egypt's civic code calls for children under the age of 15 to stay with their mother regardless of their religion, whereas sharia tends to favor the Muslim parent in such cases.

"They want to stay with their mother," Gobrael said. "They don't know anything about Islam and sharia. They are Christians and go to church on Sundays."

The twins have publicly stated their faith, and during a test in a mandatory religious class two years ago they scribbled only, "I am a

Christian" on their answer sheets and otherwise turned them in blank.

The twins intend to go on a hunger strike if they are forced to live with their Muslim father, whom they hardly know, sources told *Compass Direct*.

"We only want one thing," Gobrael said. "We want the law to be applied in our cases like this one, not the sharia, because the government owes us citizenship. This is a civilized, secular country, not a religious country."

The decision of the presiding judge, El Sayed El Sherbini, to give the father full custody is not even based on sharia but is purely arbitrary, Gaballah and her eldest son George Medhat Ramses contended, since the country's State Mufti had granted custody to the mother in April 2006.

"We don't want to give them to anyone or comply with the sentence," Ramses told *Compass*. "All the legal ways have been wrong to us. We've been trying to make it as legal as we can, but the court has not been fair."

Ramses, 21, who also is a Christian and lives with his mother and two younger brothers, said the judge showed bias in favor of his father because he converted to Islam shortly after he left Gaballah.

"The decision was unfair and oppressive," Gaballah told *Compass*. "I am treated differently than other Egyptians, as if this is not my own country."

Gaballah said she fears that her children will grow up without hope and a

sense of justice.

"I am so sad and afraid about their psychology," she said, "because they are facing something that is fundamentally against all the principles I have taught them."

Gaballah said she is ready to keep fighting with the few means left in her power to keep her sons, even if it means a criminal record for not handing them over to their father.

"I'm determined to get justice in my own country, because it is my natural right and my sons' right," she said. "I cannot see how I can comply with the people who are taking my rights away from me and taking my children from me to give them to an unworthy father and another woman."

Labib is now married to his third wife, with whom he has a 4-year-old son. He is a businessman working in exports and travels between Alexandria and Cairo.

Gobrael said he intends to send a clear message to Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and the international human rights community that judgments like this one are hypocritical on the part of a government that claims to be "civilized."

"How can they think we live in a civilized and secular country when they are applying sharia law on us?" the attorney asked. "We will send a message to human rights organizations in Egypt and around the world to help us. We are angry and we want to declare it."

